facilities, such as declaration of Granite as a major mineral, extension of 100% EOU Scheme for Granite mining and quarrying etc.

[*Translation*]

Silk Production in Tribal Areas of Bihar

5086. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of silk in tribal dominated (Vanachal) areas of Chota Nagpur Santhal Pargana in Bihar; and

(b) the amount provided by the Government to Bihar during 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92 for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government, the Central Silk Board has created the following infrastructure for providing research, extension, Seed Production, Marketing & Training support for development of sericulture in tribal dominated (Vanachal) areas of Chota Nagpur & Santhal Pargana districts in Bihar -

1. Regional sericulture Research Station for mulberry at Ranchi (Chota Nagpur)

2. Silkworm Seed Production Centre at Ranchi (Chota Nagpur)

3. Research Extension Centre for mulberry sericulture at Gumla (Chota Nagpur)

4. Technical Service Centres at Maheshpur & Sahibganj (Santhal Pargana) and Chaibasa & Lolhardaga (Chota Nagpur)

5. Sericulture Training School at Ranchi (Chota Nagpur)

6. Central Tasar Rasearch & Training Institute at Ranchi (Chota Nagpur)

7. Regional Tasar Research & Training Institute at Dumka (Santhal Pargana)

8. Basic Seed Multiplication cum Training Centres at Madhopur & Kathikund (Santhal Pargana) and Naomandi & Kharswan (Chota Nagpur) and

9. Raw Material Bank at Chaibasa (Chota Nagpur)

Central Silk Board has also extended facilities for development of sericulture in South Bihar, such as supply of mulberry cuttings, extension support, training, supply of DFLs, marketing support etc.

(b) The amount spent/allocated by Central Silk Board (CSB) towards development of sericulture in Bihar during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 are as under:-

Year	*Amount spent/allocated*
	(Rs. in lakhs)
1989-90	35.78
1990-91	196.01
1991-92	350.51

Rehabilitation Centres for War Widows in Bihar

5087. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rehabilitation centres set up for the war widows in Bihar district-wise;

(b) the details of the activities of these centres;

(c) whether these rehabilitation centres are functioning properly; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). No rehabilitation Centre for the war widows presently exists in the State of Bihar. However, four Vocational Training Centres have recently been approved for being set up at Patna, Bhojpur, Ranchi and Chaibasa in Bihar to provide training to ex-servicemen/widows in activities like stitching, typing, embroidery etc.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[*English*]

5088. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to regularise the services of pigmy deposit collectors as regular employees of the respective scheduled banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the other benefits that are proposed to be given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Indian banks' Association (IBA) has reported that in terms of the Award given by the Industrial Tribunal, Hyderabad in I.D. 14/80 deposit collectors have to be given option to get absorbed in regular cadres in the banks after passing a selection test as part time employees. Those who do not opt for regular appointment have to be given higher commission and other benefits. The I.B.A has also reported that on behalf of the affected member banks it filed a writ petition in the Andhra Pradesh High Court against the Award and has obtained a stay. At present, the matter is sub-judice.

Strike in General Insurance Corporation and its Subsidiaries

5089. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers working in the General Insurance Corporation of India and its four subsidiaries;

(b) whether there was any strike in the offices of General Insurance Corporation and its subsidiaries on March 4, 1992; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against those employees who participated in the strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) 14,567

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Some of the employees of the companies were on unauthorised absence on 4th March, 1992. The GIC had advised its Subsidiaries to effect wage-cut in respect of officers who were on unauthorised absence on that day.

Development of West Coast Canal

5090. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in developing the West Coast Canal between Kollam, Kochi, Kottapuram section along with Chempakkara canal and Udyogmandal canal as National Waterway;